

Testimony on HB 5004

Office of Early Childhood Budget

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and Member of the Committee:

My name is Emma B. Cassell. I am a teacher at the Childcare Learning Center, Inc. in Stamford, CT.

I believe the state funded programs need to continue to be funded.

I have been working at the Childcare Learning Center for many years and know of the high quality services they provide to the children and parents in this community. The Childcare Learning Centers are high quality NAEYC State funded accredited programs that follow strict guidelines from the office of Early Childhood.

Teachers working in the Childcare Learning Centers have Bachelor's degree, and some are working on obtaining their degree by the 2020 deadline. If the Childcare Learning Centers do not get funded and had to close, it would be a great loss to the community of Stamford and the State of Connecticut. We the teachers would lose our jobs and have no other choice but depend on State funded programs to survive.

We work hard with these young children, helping to prepare them not only for kindergarten but for the future. Most of us have the same degree as the Public School teachers, but are paid very little compared to them.

We the Teachers are asking that you keep the funding intact for all State funded programs offering care and education to our young children and their parents so that they would be self-sufficient and ready for life.